

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANTANA 00786 081418Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-04 EB-08 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05  
/034 W

-----042484 081420Z /43

R 081453Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0475  
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0786

DEPT PASS EXIM

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, EAIR, EXIM, MA  
SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AT ALL-TIME  
HIGH IN DECEMBER 1977

REF: ANTANANARIVO 0172 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. MADAGASCAR'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES PLUNGED  
FROM 14.64 BILLION FMG IN MAY 1977 TO 3.67 BILLION FMG IN  
OCTOBER 1977, AN ALL THE TIME LOW. APRIL CENTRAL BANK  
BULLETIN NOW REPORTS RESERVES REACHED 16.198 BILLION FMG  
IN DECEMBER 1977, AN ALL THE TIME HIGH. (CURRENTLY, 230 FMG  
EQUALS APPROX. ONE DOLLAR). END SUMMARY.

2. REF A REPORTED THAT RESERVES HAD REACHED 10.92 BILLION  
FMG IN NOVEMBER 1977 AND THE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT  
RESERVES HAD SOARED AS HIGH AS TWENTY BILLION FMG IN  
JANUARY 1978. AFTER JANUARY, CENTRAL BANK BULLETIN  
REPORTED NOVEMBER RESERVES, FEBRUARY AND MARCH BULLTINS  
CARRIED NO NEW INFORMATION. NOW APRIL BULLETIN REPORTS  
DECEMBER RESERVES AT 16.198 BILLION FMG OR APPROX. 70.4 MILLION  
DOLLARS.

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3. COMMENT. SO FAR, WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE CONFIRM-  
ATION OF EVEN HIGHER RESERVES IN UNOFFICIAL REPORTS  
FOR JANUARY. WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT 50,000 TONS  
OF RICE IMPORTED IN EARLY 1978 HAS PROBABLY ALREADY  
BROUGHT DOWN HIGHER YEAR-END FIGURES. BELIEVE  
GOVERNMENT PROBABLY PAID ABOUT 400 DOLLARS PER TON  
FOR THE RICE, WHICH WOULD REDUCE DECEMBER FOREIGN

EXCHANGE PEAK TO 11.6 MILLION FMG.

BARRETT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ANTANA00786  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780197-0625  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 ANTANANARIVO 172  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2767270  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MADAGASCAR'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN DECEMBER 1977  
**TAGS:** EFIN, ETRD, EAIR, MA, XMB  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014